

Congresswoman NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

Representing New York's 12th Congressional District
Ranking Democrat, House Small Business Committee



Velázquez Fights to Hire Public Housing Residents Bill to require more tenants hired on big construction jobs

Congresswoman Velázquez held a press conference June 12 on the Lower East Side to announce the introduction of a bill that would tighten existing federal legislation governing the hiring of public housing residents in federally funded construction projects in housing developments. Velázquez was joined by public housing residents, Good Old Lower

East Side (GOLES), Public Housing Residents of the Lower East Side (PHROLES), construction unions, and local elected officials.

Congresswoman Velázquez said that under her bill, Section 3 of the federal housing law would be amended so that 30% of all labor costs on contracts worth \$500,000 or more will be set aside for hiring eligible residents. And contractors who meet Section 3 goals will receive favorable consideration on future contract bids.

Velázquez's bill will also require housing authorities and contractors to work together to provide better outreach and placement of interested housing tenants.

Because the current law is seen as lacking in training opportunities for tenant employment, the Congresswoman's bill will also improve existing worker-training programs.

The Congresswoman called on NYCHA and HUD to work with the groups assembled to make the Section 3 program a success.



Congresswoman Velázquez discusses her bill requiring construction contracts in public housing to hire more of their residents.

Hispanic Caucus Investigates Vieques Mistreatment Members decry rubber bullets use, protester beatings

Last month, Congresswoman Velázquez joined in efforts with the office of Puerto Rico's Resident Commissioner Acevedo Vilá and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to shed light on the mistreatment of protestors detained by the United States Navy on the Puerto Rican Island of Vieques in late April.

"A year ago when I joined the protest in Vieques I saw the same injustice," Velázquez said. "Once again, the Navy chose to behave like a world-class bully."

In light of the Navy's resumption of its military practices in April, an array of Puerto Rican and U.S. political, community, religious and environmental leaders decided to undertake a demonstration of civil disobedience.

According to representatives of the Puerto Rican Senate, members of the Navy military police indiscriminately fired rubber bullets at protestors located outside Navy compounds and protestors were kicked on the ground after they had been immobilized and handcuffed.

"The Navy displayed a total disregard for human well-being by applying brutal force against its own citizens. These actions have absolutely no place in a democratic society," the Congresswoman said.

Last month, the Administration announced the Navy would leave Vieques in two years.

Roberto Clemente Clinic Will Remain Open

Vital center on Lower East Side retains important services

Officials this month announced the Roberto Clemente medical center will remain open with full services to the Lower East Side, following a community campaign aided by Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez. The final determination ended a roller-coaster series of decisions regarding the clinic's fate.

Initially, as the Lower East Side prepared to celebrate that the Roberto Clemente Center would remain open, the City's Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC) reversed its decision and announced that the clinic would lose three critical medical services: primary care, gynecology, and pediatrics were slated to close the last week of June.

But Congresswoman Velázquez interceded on behalf of the clinic and its many patients, requesting that HHC reconsider the vital services provided by the Roberto Clemente Center. Particularly, the Congresswoman argued, the clinic should retain these services because the Lower East Side is a community that relies on public clinics for family medicine, especially when these services are provided in English and Spanish. In addition, making these services available close to where people live is of utmost importance: residents who must travel outside their neighborhood to a clinic, studies show, are much less likely to seek medical care. Having satellite clinics such as Roberto Clemente in the communities has greatly expanded the level of care provided by the HHC network.

In the first days of July, the Roberto Clemente Center received word that all services would continue to be provided on the Lower East Side.

Velázquez Lauds BID Progress on Lower East Side

Business Improvement District address notes revitalization

Last month, Congresswoman Velázquez delivered the keynote address at the Lower East Side Business Improvement District's Ninth Annual Meeting.

The Congresswoman spoke of the area's immigrant tradition and strong roots, as well as the economic hardships the community suffered through the 1970s and '80s. The Congresswoman congratulated the BID for its perseverance

through lean economic years, when more than 20% of the area's businesses stood empty. By relying on the strengths of the past, the Congresswoman said, and its vision of the future, the BID had helped revitalize the Lower East Side as new designers and boutiques moved in to join longtime businesses. "The result is one of the most vibrant districts in the City," Velázquez added.

Velázquez also touched on her role in Congress as the Ranking Democrat on the House Small Business Committee. She spoke of her dedication to the nation's small businesses, which she said drive the nation's economy. "Nowhere is this more apparent than right here on the Lower East Side," the Congresswoman told the roomful of guests.

And she spoke with pride of her work to help the Lower East Side Tenement Museum become part of the National Parks System, as well as the recent designation of the Lower East Side on the National Register of Historic Places.



The Lower East Side Business Improvement District presents Congresswoman Velázquez a plaque recognizing her support of small businesses in the district.

Grants Awarded to Our Community

New York University Hospital.....\$242,014
Supports cancer cause and prevention research

New York University Hospital.....\$167,454
Supports vision research

New York University.....\$15,000
Supports biological research relating to deafness
and community disorders

New York University.....\$83,625
Supports Drug Abuse Research Program

New York University.....\$15,000
Supports oral disease and disorders research

Metropolitan Transportation Authority.....\$477,568
City-wide grant to improve services to
public assistance recipients